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PM: Our answer to terror – build and settle Beit El shooting victims laid to rest

PFLP: We carried out attack

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN,
DAVID MAKOVSKY
and news agencies

IDF troops continue to enforce a closure on the Ramallah area and have largely left to Palestinian police the hunt for the terrorists responsible for Wednesday's attack.

Security sources said the killers are believed to have taken shelter in the autonomous enclave.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which opposes the peace process, took responsibility for the drive-by shooting near Beit El. Speaking from Damascus, the PFLP's Abu Ahmed Fuad said his group launched the attack because of Israel's settlement policies.

The PFLP "will continue our struggle as long as the occupation and settlements continue," he said, on the 29th anniversary of the group's founding.

In another development, Samir Abu Shaqfa, a Palestinian worker, was shot to death at Moshav Kochav Michael before dawn yesterday, a police spokeswoman said. Uri Maor, 56, a resident of the moshav, in the South, was remanded for causing his death. Maor initially told police he believed Shaqfa was a burglar, but later contended he suspected the Palestinian was a terrorist about to carry out an attack. (Story, Page 3)

Israel Police, meanwhile, said forensic tests indicate the two rifles used in the attack were also used in five similar drive-by shootings, according to Israel Radio. The findings led police to believe that the terrorists were from the Halhoul cell, responsible for two deadly attacks last summer. Military sources said they lost the trail of the Hebron-based cell, responsible for the murder of at least seven Israelis, and speculated it may have moved, operations to the Ramallah area.

Israeli security officials provided their Palestinian counterparts with names of suspected PFLP militants in the Ramallah and Bethlehem areas, who were promptly arrested.

In Ramallah, Palestinian police have arrested 17 suspects, all PFLP members, and Channel 2 said it is believed at least one of them matches the description given to police by Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed in the attack.

Security coordination was headed by Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan and General Security Service head Ami Ayalon, alongside Palestinian Authority Gen. Haj Ismail.

On the personal authorization of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, Dayan was permitted to visit the Ramallah city dump, where specialists examined the vehicle from which the terrorists shot the Tzur family.

However, IDF troops did not hunt down the terrorists in the city, as implied by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu immediately after the attack.

A curfew has been imposed on the village of Sidra, where the

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Yoel Tzur comforts one of his sons, as they walk past the bodies of his wife, Etta, and son, Ephraim, in Beit El yesterday.

'My head's fine but my heart aches'

BATSHEVA TSUR

"MY head doesn't hurt, but my heart does," Tamar Tzur said yesterday from her hospital bed, while a funeral procession left Jerusalem for Beit El with the bodies of her mother, Etta, and her brother, Ephraim.

A wisp of a 13-year-old with braces on her teeth, Tamar was swathed in a large bandage, after doctors at Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem removed ricochets from her head and neck. But it was her two younger sisters, Shoshana, 8, lying in the next bed after a six-hour operation on her right hand, and six-year-old Avital, at home, who worried her.

"They don't know yet that mother is dead. They are too young to absorb that at this stage, so we haven't told them. It will be so hard for them to come home from school every day and not to find her there," she said, dry-eyed. "Avital is only in first grade."

Tamar said her father had given her hope. "My dad is so full of faith and he told me to be strong and to believe in God. Dad said we must look on the bright side of things. We didn't suffer so much," she said. "Those who died, didn't feel anything and we were only lightly wounded and don't have much [physical] pain."

She said only five of the family's eight children had been in the car. The four girls were all described as lightly injured and two were released from the hospital yesterday.

The moments of horror of the evening before remain clear in her mind. She spoke quietly, as if out of respect for the dead, and with detachment.

"Our car had stopped at the intersection for the vehicles traveling in the opposite direction to pass. Suddenly there were shots. I knew immediately what

it was. "The car seemed to be filled with blood in a moment. I was sitting next to Ephraim. In the beginning, he was still breathing heavily, then he was dead. Dad said that he died instantly and that those were simply death throes, so I guess he didn't suffer."

"Dad - he was unhurt, just a few ricochets in his back - jumped out to run to call for help. It was so scary. Mom was still conscious and she muttered a few times, 'Quick, get help.' After a while, a car with some members of our settlement arrived and started helping us. They took us to an army clinic nearby. Even in the ambulance on the way to the hospital, mom was alive and spoke with the doctor.

"But my big sister, Shlomit - she's 16, but she was totally hysterical. She started shouting 'Look at Ephraim, he's dead.' His eyes had rolled back. She made a mistake. She should have realized that would frighten the little girls."

Tamar admitted that she had worried in the past that something could happen to them. "It happened to other families, so why not to us? Yes," she said, "we will stay on in Beit El. Jews have to be everywhere in Eretz Yisrael."

She is not angry, nor is she looking for retribution, she said.

"The Arabs have a right to use the road like we do. We have Arab friends. One was here today and he was terribly upset... There's no point in killing or even looking for [the perpetrators]. They cannot bring back my mom."

She looked at the time. Then, comforting herself, added with a rare sigh: "I believe that my mom will now go to heaven."

'Post' on Internet with new technology

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Jerusalem Post is the first newspaper in the world to be presented on the Internet via BackWeb, an Israeli-developed, pioneering technology allowing Web sites that interest each user to float onto the computer screen as graphic symbols and be clicked on immediately.

By dispensing free download software to home users, Ramat Gan-based BackWeb Technologies turns the information provider into a "polite" broadcaster of information that the user can accept if he wishes. Instead of having to find his way through hundreds of thousands of Web sites competing for the user's time, he can have what attracts him pulled out onto his screen.

Since yesterday, anyone reaching the Post's Internet Edition (http://www.jpost.co.il) has the option of clicking on the BackWeb

option. This allows him to register as a user at no cost, download 1.5 megabytes of software and select a customized menu of BackWeb channels.

Whenever he is connected to the Net, icons representing these channels will appear from time to time on his screen and offer their wares. They disappear in a few seconds if not clicked.

This is called a "polite agent delivery technology," very different from the aggressive approach of a company like PointCast, which forces the Internet user to stop what he is doing to receive news and bombard his screen with this information, whether he wants it or not.

BackWeb, a start-up company that made its first splash at this week's Internet World exhibition in

New York, offers dozens of channels, from financial and technology news to ski reports, astrology forecasts, children's games and weather updates. The Wall Street Journal will be the second newspaper to appear via BackWeb early in January.

The Jerusalem Post's Internet edition offers the main news headlines of the day (which flow out of the icon even without clicking it), news stories, a selection of opinion articles, editorials and business and sports reports. In addition, subscribers can select which sections of the newspaper they want to receive automatically. The Post has plans to increase and personalize its channel offerings.

"It was only natural that we would seek out new, innovative technologies to best serve our readership and forge new markets."

(Continued on Page 18)

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, standing in the Beit El cemetery over the fresh graves of Etta and Ephraim Tzur, pledged yesterday that the government will increase its efforts and resources to ensure the existence of the Jewish people in its historic land.

"Beit El is important to us," Netanyahu said. "The roots of the people of Israel are in the land of Beit El, Shilo, Be'er and Hebron. And not only will these roots not be torn out, they will be made deeper."

Thousands of people swarmed to the small cemetery just outside Beit El to the funeral of Etta and Ephraim, who died in a drive-by terror shooting Wednesday night. The three-hour funeral procession began in the plaza of Beit El Yeshiva, which Yoel Tzur, the husband and father of the victims, was instrumental in holding. After the recitation of several psalms and a number of eulogies, the huge crowd walked about 30 minutes to the cemetery.

Tzur was released from the hospital yesterday, as were two of his children who had been passengers in the car. Two other children remained hospitalized last night in good condition.

Despite the number of people in attendance, the only sounds heard as the procession started to make its way from the yeshiva to the cemetery were footsteps, chirping

HERB KEINON

birds and sobs. Among those who attended the funeral along with Netanyahu, were Foreign Minister David Levy, National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon, Education Minister Zevulun Hammer, Chief Rabbi Yisrael Lau and former chief rabbi Mordechai Eliahu.

Both Hammer and Sharon called for the development of settlements as a response to the attack. "I have no words of comfort for you, Yoel," Sharon said. "I have no words of consolation. How can one console the death of a mother and son? There is no solace. Comfort is not what is needed now, but a true Zionist act, that is what the nation expects."

Netanyahu said the first answer of the government and the people of Israel to the attack is to make it clear that "we are staying here. We will build here, we will live here. You will never succeed in uprooting us from our land. You will not achieve your goals."

Netanyahu pledged to increase efforts to ensure security for all Israelis. He said the government sees no difference between its responsibility to provide security for settlers and for those living in Beit Kama or Herzliya.

"We will continue to try and achieve peace, a true peace," Netanyahu said. "And this peace will be obtained only if it obli-

ates the other side. That means the other side is committed to uphold all its obligations."

Netanyahu said the government will in a clear, unequivocal manner demand the extradition of murderers.

There are no plans for the cabinet today to announce the expansion of existing settlements, officials in the Prime Minister's Office said.

Channel One reported last night that security officials told Netanyahu yesterday that to engage in such expansion would only exacerbate the situation in the territories.

Officials in the premier's office note that the cabinet is likely to approve a scheduled motion to accept the report prepared by Netanyahu's director-general Avigdor Lieberman a few weeks ago. The report called for reinstating special benefits for settlers on a par with those living in development towns, Galilee, the Golan and the Jordan Valley. Those subsidies were nullified by the Labor government shortly after it came into office in 1992.

Netanyahu convened the inner cabinet yesterday to discuss the attack, but no operational decisions were taken, officials say. Tzur called on the government to immediately begin building 1,000 units on Har Artsis in Beit El as a response to the attack.

(Continued on Page 18)

Yesha council threatens to boost settlements if gov't won't

HERB KEINON

IF the government does not decide at its cabinet meeting this morning to expand settlements, the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza will begin doing so itself, council chairman Pinhas Wallerstein said yesterday.

"We will provide a Zionist response," Wallerstein said. "A Zionist response is the expansion of the settlements. A Zionist response is new settlements. A Zionist response is that if the Arabs will understand that if they kill us, we will grow and expand in the

same place."

Wallerstein's comments came as the council held an emergency meeting in Psagot in reaction to Wednesday night's terror attack near the Beit El settlement.

"If the government does not decide by Friday to expand the settlements in Judea and Samaria, the council will do it alone, even during the shiva period," Wallerstein said. "Every time Jewish blood is spilled, 1,000 new Jewish families will come here."

A similar appeal came from Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed in the attack. Speaking at the graveside in Beit El, Tzur called on the government to immediately begin constructing some 1,000 housing units in Har Artsis, just outside Beit El. Among the ideas suggested by the council is the placement of mobile homes in the settlements and attempts to gain a foothold on hills surrounding the settlements, as was done unsuccessfully at numerous locations in the summer of last year.

Generali: We won't pay Holocaust victim's family

DAVID HARRIS

THE Israeli legal representative of one of Europe's largest insurers, Assicurazioni Generali, said yesterday the company has no intention of paying a life insurance policy to the family of a Holocaust victim.

Before World War II, Jews from the city of Uzhghorod, now in Ukraine and then in occupied Czechoslovakia, took out life insurance policies with Italian-based Generali's Prague office.

In 1944, most of Uzhghorod's 20,000 Jews were deported to Auschwitz, including Mor Stern, who had taken out a policy for Kr 30,000 in 1929.

Stern's son Rudolph made a claim on the policy to Generali via the Czech embassy in London, in the fall of 1945.

However, as was the practice, Stern was told he would have to provide a death certificate.

In October 1945, the company's Czech assets and liabilities were nationalized under a presidential decree, and according to a letter sent this week to the Stern family from Generali vice director Guido Pastori, "became a separate independent business."

About 50 percent of company's overall assets were expropriated throughout Eastern Europe, in the years following the war, Generali's legal representative in Israel Amihud Ben-Porat said yesterday.

(Continued on Page 18)

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Weizman: We must live together

BATSHEVA TSUR

PRESIDENT Ezer Weizman yesterday denounced the "cruelty" of the perpetrators of Wednesday's terrorist attack, but said Israel and the Palestinians had no alternative but to try to live together.

"This may sound Utopian, impossible, but it is the impossible that the State of Israel has usually managed to achieve," Weizman said.

He was speaking during a visit to Tamar and Shoshana Tzur, aged 13 and 8, who are hospitalized in the children's wing of Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital. Ein Kerem. Tamar is suffering from ricochet wounds in her neck and Shoshana has ricochet wounds in her left hand and legs.

"Despite what happened, we will continue to find the way to live together with our neighbors, with all the difficulty, and the cruelty on the other side," Weizman said.

But he warned: "They have to understand that if this continues, there will be conclusions that are not easy. I am speaking for myself and not the government."

"I am convinced that some of them understand the situation. It is a small body that perpetrated this. We have to push forward and try to achieve coexistence."



President Ezer Weizman reflects on the Hanukkiot lit yesterday at the Beit El home of Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed in Wednesday's drive-by shooting. (Flash 90)

Right of hot pursuit not used

BACKGROUND
STEVE RODAN

ISRAEL has the legal right to pursue terrorists inside areas under the control of the Palestinian Authority, but the IDF has never exercised this right as to avoid a clash with Palestinian forces, security and legal sources said yesterday.

So far, the security sources said, the IDF has not had a case in which it tracked terrorists fleeing from Israeli to PA-controlled areas.

"Israel has the right to hot pursuit," said Dan Polisar, executive director of Peace Watch. "Legally, there is no doubt of that right. So, the considerations that stop Israel must be either military or political."

The Israeli-Palestinian accord signed in 1994 did not specify Israel's right of hot pursuit. However, Israeli negotiators added this to the Oslo II accords signed in 1995.

That accord defines hot pursuit as "engagement," which is defined as "an immediate response to an act or an incident constituting a danger to life or property that is aimed at preventing or terminating such an act or incident, or at apprehending its perpetrators."

The accord allows Israel to carry out this engagement in PA areas,

but says Israel must transfer responsibility to the PA police as soon as possible.

In Wednesday night's attack, the IDF was unable to immediately trace the attackers. The terrorist squad had fled and was believed to have entered the Ramallah area before Israeli soldiers arrived at the scene of the shooting.

IDF commanders said that despite the legal right of hot pursuit they have sought PA approval for entry into areas under Palestinian control. They point to the Palestinian-Israeli clashes in September when an IDF force sent to rescue soldiers under siege in Joseph's Tomb in Nablus was met by a hail of gunfire from Palestinian police and other gunmen.

The result, IDF sources said, is that unless Israeli authorities capture terrorists in the act they escape to PA-controlled areas of asylum. PA officials have so far rejected every Israeli request for extradition of suspected terrorists, and yesterday they said their policy will apply to the latest attack.

Instead, the PA has arrested and prosecuted suspected terrorists in secret trials. In several cases, IDF sources said, the convicted men were quietly freed after serving as few as several months in prison.

PA routinely flouts extradition requests for terrorists

BACKGROUND
EVELYN GORDON

THE extradition of terrorists is a section of the Oslo Accords the Palestinian Authority consistently has refused to honor. According to the Government Press Office, Israel has so far requested the transfer of 27 suspected terrorists - 17 formally and 10 informally. To date, not a single request has been honored.

According to the GPO, six of the 27 are definitely serving in the PA security forces, three others appear to be members of these forces, and another three are now trying to join.

However, the PA has complied with some requests for the transfer of ordinary criminals.

According to both the 1994 Cairo Agreement and the 1995 Interim Agreement, either side must comply with a formal request for the transfer of a suspect. An informal request is not binding, but Israel considers compliance with such requests to be part of the general framework of security cooperation.

The one exception to the mandatory compliance with a formal request is if the suspect is

other 17 were filed by the Labor government, mostly in 1995. Six requests were submitted in 1994.

Only two requests have been formally refused. The rest have simply been ignored.

The first formal refusal, in December 1994, was Israel's request to extradite Rajah and Amru Abu-Sita, wanted for the murder of Uri Megidish of Moshav Gan-Or in Gaza in March 1993. The PA said that because the murder occurred before the Oslo Accords were signed, it was not covered by the agreement.

Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair, prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's legal advisor Ahaz Ben-Ari, and the Foreign Ministry's legal department all said there was no basis for this interpretation in the agreement, which makes no reference to any time limitation. However, Rabin chose to publicly treat this interpretation as legitimate.

The second refusal was in the case of Iyad Bashti and Yusuf Malhi, wanted for the murder of Gil Revah and Shlomo Kapah in Ramle in August 1994. In this case, the PA said the request did not meet the technical specifications of the agreement. Ben-Yair denied this, but resubmitted the request anyway. The new request was never answered.

Unextradited suspects

THE following is a list of suspects Israel has requested to extradite from PA areas. The PA has not responded to any of these requests, except for two that were rejected. Ten of the suspects are already in the Palestinian Police or in the process of joining Israel said:

- Atef a-Wahab Hamadan - wanted for kidnapping and wounding an Israeli soldier.
- Bassam Subhi Shaaban Issa - took part in the murder of three Israeli soldiers in 1993.
- Said Massoud Salah Arabid - involved in attack that killed Lt. Col. Meir Mintz in Gaza in 1993.
- Waleed Pawzi Abu Daka - involved in an accident in which an Israeli guard was shot dead in Petah Tikva.
- Nafez Mahmoud Sabih - coordinated suicide bombing in Jerusalem and Ashkelon.
- Imad Mahmoud Issa Abbas - participated in murder of two Israelis near Karmi in 1992.
- Adnan Yibey Mahmoud Jaber al-Gohi - concealed a car used in a suicide bombing at Kfar Darom; involved in shooting attack in 1987.
- Muhammed Arafat Ibrahim Khawaja - involved in attack that killed two soldiers dead at Erez junction.
- Hisham Ashour a-Malic Salam - coordinated transportation for Dizengoff Center suicide bomber.

• Bassam Khalil Abdel Rahman Aram - involved in 1993 murder of Zvi Fixler at Moshav Gan-Or.

• Yasser Muhammad Musa Aram - also involved in Fixler killing.

• Ala Ahmed Abd al-Munim Salah - involved in 1993 murder of Yossi Zindani in Beni-Ayish.

• Rajah Khalil Ali Abu-Sita - involved in 1993 murder of Uri Megidish of Gan Or.

• Amru Abdallah Abu-Sita - also involved in Megidish slaying.

• Salah Mustafa Othman - hijacked Jerusalem bus in 1993, killed one Israeli and wounded others.

• Raid Abu Libda - murdered Natalia Ivanov in Ashdod in 1994.

• Iyad Hamdi Abu-Shakafa - for attempted murder of Shaul David in Ramle in 1994.

• Iyad Bashti - involved in 1994 murder of Gil Revah and Shlomo Kapah in Ramle.

• Yusuf Malhi - involved in 1994 Ramle killings.

• Yusuf Muhammad Admed Raghi - involved in killing of two hikers, Ohad Bachrach and Uri Shohor, in Wadi Kelt last year.

• Shaher Ali Ahmed Raghi - involved in Wadi Kelt killings.

• Khader Saba Yakub Abu Abra - gave orders for Wadi Kelt murders.

• Mubi a-Din a-Sharif - transported explosives for 1995 suicide bombing on Jerusalem bus.

• Abd al-Majid Dudin - trained suicide bombers, including 1995 Jerusalem attack that killed four.

• Awad Silti - involved in Lt. Col. Mintz killing and suicide-bomb attacks.

• Nidal Ahmed Mustafa Barakat - for killing suspected collaborator, Labib Latif Shadedef.

• Ibrahim Lateef Shaheed - involved in Shadedef's murder in 1994.

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Yesterday's cards and numbers

In yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the 7 of spades, the 10 of hearts, the queen of diamonds, and the 9 of clubs.

In the weekly Payis Hazak drawing, the holder of ticket number 215828 won NIS 1 million, while ticket 560310 was good for a new car.

Tickets numbered 025290, 420404, 349913, 350124, 095364, 193865, 434828 and 239996 all were good for NIS 5,000, while those holding tickets ending in 95215, 36636, 50826, 26657, 74990, 13880, 29407, 27791, 97381, 07867, 58226, 48624, 34499, 75799, 83958, 16018, 44469, 64325 and 00552 all won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 839, 662, 262 and 512 were worth NIS 100, in 95, 68, 71 and 87 NIS 30, in 07 and 98 NIS 20.

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مكتبة القدس



Masked Palestinian students march around Bethlehem University yesterday as they celebrate the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

PFLP: Rejectionist group with a past

THE Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, based in Damascus, has claimed responsibility for Wednesday's attack that killed Etta and Ephraim Tzur near Beit El. It is a group that rejected Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's peace accord with Israel and supports armed struggle to achieve a secular state in all of the land now occupied by Israel and the Palestinian Authority. It maintains a West Bank military arm, the Red Eagles, which has carried out drive-by shootings and other attacks in Israel and the

West Bank that claimed the lives of five people in June and July. It carried out infamous attacks in the 1960s and 1970s, including hijackings of three airliners that were brought to Jordan in September 1970 and blown up after the passengers were released. The incident triggered a civil war in which Palestinians were expelled from Jordan. Wednesday's attack occurred on the anniversary of the group's 1977 founding by George Habash, a physician by training, who was a refugee from the 1948 war and founder of a

pan-Arab nationalist movement. Habash's health has been poor in recent years and he reportedly has sought treatment in Jordan. The PFLP spawned several other Marxist-oriented splinter factions. These included Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine headed by Nayef Hawarnah, and the General Command faction headed by Ahmed Jibril, both based in Damascus. The PFLP was the second-largest Palestinian group, after Arafat's Fatah faction, until the rise of Islamic opposition groups such as Hamas. (AP)

Grapes of Wrath monitors blame IDF for wounding Lebanese civilians

THE Grapes of Wrath monitoring committee yesterday held the IDF responsible for the wounding of six Lebanese civilians by tank fire, but refrained from condemning Israel for the incident.

A diplomatically worded statement was issued by the five-nation committee yesterday, after four days of discussions over Lebanon's complaint about shelling in the south of the country last Saturday.

The fighting erupted after Hizbullah gunmen detonated a series of roadside bombs alongside an IDF patrol in the Beaufort Castle region of the security zone, killing one soldier and wounding another.

The IDF maintained that Hizbullah also fired Sagger anti-tank missiles at the patrol and that the tank fire that followed was in self-defense.

Lebanon, however, charged there was no Sagger missile firing at the time and that the tank shell that hit Tibnit village, north of the zone, lightly wounding the six civilians, was unjustified.

The Lebanese delegation to the monitoring committee said the tank fire was a clear violation of the understandings reached at the end of Operation Grapes of Wrath in April.

The understandings prohibit attacks on civilians, but not those carried out against military targets, provided the attacks themselves are not launched from residential areas or near to public facilities.

The monitoring committee, composed of representatives from the US, France, Israel, Syria and Lebanon, was established to supervise the understandings and investigate alleged violations.

DAVID RUDGE

The committee began its discussions into Lebanon's complaint Sunday. Verification visits were also made to the scene of the roadside bomb attack in the zone and of the tank fire in Tibnit village.

The representatives sat through-out Wednesday at UNIFIL headquarters in Nakoura. The meeting ended around 5:30 a.m. and a statement was issued expressing regrets over the wounding of the Lebanese civilians and damage to property.

It reiterated that all the sides

were committed to upholding the understandings and that they should take all necessary precautions in the vicinity of residential areas.

The army spokesman, in a statement issued after the meeting, said the committee did not accept Lebanon's claim that IDF artillery shelled Tibnit village.

The statement said the committee found that during IDF shooting - in response to the roadside bomb attack and anti-tank fire at the army patrol - a single tank round

hit Tibnit village, as a result of which six Lebanese civilians were lightly wounded.

The committee expressed its hope that all sides would take the necessary measures to prevent similar incidents in the future. The findings are unlikely to appease Hizbullah, which has criticized the monitoring committee in the past as toothless and ineffectual and for failing to protect Lebanese civilians.

Israeli farmer kills Palestinian worker

SAMIR Abu Shaqfa, a Palestinian worker, was shot to death before dawn yesterday, a police spokesman said. Uri Maor, 56, of Moshav Kochav Michael, was remanded for five days by the Kiryat Gat Magistrates Court for causing his death.

Maor initially told police he believed Shaqfa was a burglar, but later contended he suspected the Palestinian was a terrorist about to carry out an attack. "He said he heard strange voices coming from outside. He said he thought somebody was trying to break in. So he took his gun and went outside and fired at them. They tried to flee, but one of them fell," a police spokeswoman said.

Members of Shaqfa's family at Gaza's Jabalya refugee camp believed the 40-year-old man was killed to avenge the fatal shooting of Beit El resident Etta Tzur and her 12-year-old son Ephraim near Beit El by Arab terrorists the

day before. "This was in revenge for the Ramallah attack," his cousin Nabil Abu Shaqfa said.

Police sources said Maor probably will be charged with causing death through negligence for shooting before thoroughly checking the situation.

Palestinians immediately set up a wake for Shaqfa and proclaimed him a "martyr killed by settler herds." They said Shaqfa had been working at the same job for more than 15 years and everyone in the area knew him. They also said that three other Palestinian workers were wounded in the shooting. Police said they could not confirm that others were wounded.

Brig.-Gen. Ziyad Atrash, a senior Palestinian Police officer in Gaza, said that his information discounted the possibility that the man was killed on suspicion of burglary. "I don't want to preempt events,

but the information I have does not match the claim that the workers were on a robbery," Atrash said.

Atrash, head of the Palestinian side of the joint liaison committee with the IDF in Gaza, said he had asked Israel to set up a joint team to investigate the case.

Shaqfa was one of several Palestinians laborers the suspect's neighbor had just picked up from the Erez junction. The neighbor had dropped the three off near the Maor's home and they were walking towards the fields. As they passed Maor's home, his dogs began to chase them and the barking woke him.

"I heard voices in Arabic. I thought they were terrorists about to carry out an attack. I shouted at them to stop and they ran so I shot," Maor told police.

He then called police and Magen David Adom. An MDA crew came to the scene and declared Shaqfa dead. (I'im)

Peres: PA must catch Beit El gunmen

LABOR leader Shimon Peres said yesterday the Palestinian Authority must make every effort to trace and apprehend the murderers in the Beit El terrorist attack.

Peres told Labor's executive meeting the attack "is not only the government's problem, it's the problem of all of us, of the whole nation and the state. Nobody wants to see the renewal of terrorism or the intifada. We must demand that the Palestinian

Authority denounces the attack unequivocally and does everything it can to find and catch the terrorists, and either to try them or to turn them over to us."

Peres noted that even when Israel was in control of the territories, it did not always succeed in catching all the terrorists. Still, he said, "we will judge the PA on the basis of its efforts."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Court rejects Federman's appeal

The High Court of Justice rejected former Kach spokesman Noam Federman's petition against his administrative detention yesterday. The court had initially issued a show-cause order on the case, indicating that it found merit in the petition, but yesterday decided the evidence against Federman was enough to justify the detention. Federman charges that most of the evidence consists of press clippings of interviews he has given. Evelyn Gordon

Muasher: Don't take peace treaty for granted

Jordanian information minister Marwan Muasher expressed concern yesterday over the chilling of ties with Israel and the ongoing stalemate in the peace process. Muasher made his comments while meeting with Labor MK Ehud Barak. Muasher said Jordan feared that settlements would be expanded, and this could impact the peace process. Barak, however, expressed confidence in the special relationship between the two countries and the belief that ties would grow. Muasher invited Barak to visit Jordan. In a meeting with Labor MK Ephraim Sneh, Muasher said: "It is forbidden to take the peace treaty with Jordan for granted." I'im

Gold thanks Egypt for help in negotiations

The government is grateful for Egypt's help in the Hebron negotiations, Dore Gold, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's political adviser, said yesterday during a visit to Cairo. "We appreciate the help Egypt has given to bring about an agreement between the Israelis and Palestinians regarding Hebron," he said after meeting with Nabil Fahmy, Foreign Minister Anwar Moussa's political adviser. It is unclear if Gold also met with Moussa. "The talks began and will continue with [the help of] the Egyptians," Gold said. I'im

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K BINDING

Robin Hood he ain't

THERE is something fishier than ever in this year's budget debate.

One of the first things we heard from newly-elected Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu six-and-a-half months ago was that there was a monstrous budget deficit of NIS 4.9 billion, which, if not eliminated in one fell swoop, would bring the economy to its knees.

Since then we have been told: Oops! Our mistake - it wasn't just NIS 4.9 billion but an additional NIS 1.9 billion, and if it is not eliminated, etc. etc.

Where did this horrendous deficit emerge from all of a sudden?

We are now being told that it is the result of a very serious shortfall in government revenue, and that the real dimensions of that shortfall became apparent to the new government only after several months in office.

Why then did Netanyahu spout off about those NIS 4.9 billion in his very first days in office? Now that we're into the nitty gritty of the debate on his government's first proposed budget we begin to get a picture of what is going on.

If the main source of the tremendous deficit is in the revenue shortfall the most obvious solution should be sought in that direction: increasing revenue. But the proposals put forward by Netanyahu and Meridor tend totally to the opposite direction: cutting expenditures - no matter what the social cost - but heaven forbid that revenues should be touched.

The atmosphere surrounding whispered proposals to raise taxes as a possible alternative is similar to what one might expect after telling a particularly lurid sexual joke in the Ponevezh yeshiva.

When someone does make such a heretical suggestion they are palmed off with two supposedly telling arguments against touching taxes:

1. "Read my lips." In the election campaign Netanyahu

YOSEF GOELL

promised not to raise taxes.

But if anything has happened to him during the past six months it has been the total collapse of the credibility of his statements to both foreign leaders and the public at home. Nothing will happen to his by-now nonexistent credibility if he breaks that campaign promise and considers a judicious raising of taxes.

2. Higher taxes will dissuade people from working.

Behind Netanyahu's budget there lurks a hidden agenda

Ha! The impact of cutting government services for people in the lower income brackets is the exact equivalent of raising the taxes of those in the higher income deciles. The people at the bottom will simply have to work harder to make ends meet.

I challenge anyone to show me one bank branch manager, fat-cat lawyer or any other denizen of Israel's very nouveau riche who will give up his position at the rim of the cream pot even if his inflated income is cut by half.

THERE IS a purpose in the insistence of Netanyahu, Dan Meridor and Ya'acov Frenkel on slashing expenditures instead of increasing revenue. It is to achieve their ideological aim of slashing the size of government, the extent of its involvement in the economy and the scope of its socially equalizing programs.

They are exploiting the very real need to deal with the deficit as a pretext for their ideological designs, and there is an obvious giveaway in the way they have gone about cutting expenditures.

One of the most obvious places to cut is the NIS 9 billion a year in government subsidies to employers to cover their National Insurance costs. This should be

one of the first items for slashing, coming long before old age and child benefits are touched or Knpat Holim physicians' fees upped.

But that would mean forcing those at the top, who have been the main beneficiaries of Israel's boom during the past few years, to shoulder a fairer share of the burden.

On the revenue side raising taxes (income, not VAT) should not be the first priority. There is a large untaxed black economy in Israel that has been assessed at about one quarter of the economy.

Neither Labor nor Likud governments have ever tried to deal seriously with this problem - which is no reason why a new and young prime minister, ostensibly bringing in a breath of fresh air, shouldn't take on this challenge.

In his TV address to the nation earlier this week, the prime minister promised that if the country pulls in its collective belt next year we will all be better off in a few years.

This is highly unlikely, judging by the egregiously unequal way the benefits of the past few years of prosperity have been divided up, creating an unprecedented gap between rich and poor and an increasingly frustrated middle.

We are already one of the 20 richest countries in the world. Netanyahu is promising us that if only we go Margaret Thatcher's way we will be among the Top Ten.

But a truly civilized - and, dare I add, truly Jewish - society should be judged by how it uses its affluence to take care of its young, its aged, its sick and other unfortunates.

Here's hoping the Knesset social lobby succeeds in forcing our would-be Thatchers to their knees in the Knesset Finance Committee.

The writer comments on current affairs.



It's a good idea, but...

DESPITE Prime Minister Netanyahu's perpetual optimism the initiatives that come out of the Prime Minister's Office betray a kind of tacit acknowledgement that his basic policies aren't really going to produce the secure peace voters were promised.

Take the earliest sub initiative, "Lebanon First."

The idea that Syria would suddenly reverse its position and approve a separate deal on Lebanon after having rejected it consistently for years was so fanciful that it cannot even be dignified by the term "trial balloon."

But it did have the merit of appearing to revive, if temporarily, some kind of diplomatic movement - or at least of distracting attention.

More recently Netanyahu has put forward another suggestion that might somehow seem to compensate for the paralysis in the peace process with both Syria and the Palestinians.

Last week in Lisbon he addressed the conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the institutional successor of the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

In his talk the premier endorsed the proposal that the European model be applied to the Middle East.

The CSCSE aimed at containing and stabilizing the conflictual East-West relationship by creating an organizational framework within which some agreed guidelines and procedures for coexistence were adopted.

These guidelines, formalized at the 1975 founding meeting in Helsinki, were divided into three baskets: a political-security one (which recognized post-World War II boundaries, enshrined the non-use of force, and laid the groundwork for the development of a range of confidence-building measures); an economic one (promoting trade and capital flows); and a human-rights one (committing the participants to respect human rights and liberalize their domestic regimes).

Like "Lebanon First" the idea of establishing some similar institutional arrangement in the Middle East is too logical not to have been thought of before. It was actively promoted by the Crown Prince Hassan in the early 1990s, incorporated into the Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty and more recently endorsed by British Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind.

AT FIRST glance the idea of a CSCSE seems unobjectionable. It could contribute to the management of conflicts, the prevention of crises, the promotion of economic interchange and the breaking down of cultural and other barriers.

It could help sustain or encourage the peace process - or at least provide some kind of

MARK A. HELLER

safety net in case the process was in even more danger of collapsing than it is now.

But most Arab states, including some not in an active state of confrontation with Israel, are not really interested in a safety net in case the peace process fails, less that make the prospect of failure less frightening to the rest of the world.

Ostensibly such institutions, like the multilateral working

A Mideast organization for coexistence based on the European CSCE model? The Arabs won't buy it

groups set up at Madrid, imply some kind of creeping normalization with Israel before the political conflicts have been settled, i.e., before the border questions are definitively resolved.

These states' rationale is that cooperation, security-building and normalization cannot precede the resolution of these political problems, which did not exist as impediments in Europe (although plenty of Latvians, Lithuanians and Estonians would argue otherwise).

In any case, they are certainly not going to adopt the part of Helsinki that recognized existing borders.

In a few cases, especially Syria, there are other, even more compelling reasons for an unenthusiastic approach.

According to some interpretations of the Cold War, the third Helsinki basket - the one about liberalization, openness, and human rights - was added as window-dressing in exchange for the political and economic concessions made by the West to the Soviet Union. The Soviets didn't intend to take it seriously, and most people in the West did not really expect them to. But things didn't quite work out according to plan.

If the regimes in eastern Europe didn't take these formulas seriously, their domestic critics and dissidents did, and the authorities, in accordance with their international obligations, had to loosen the barriers to intellectual and cultural exchanges and access to information.

Some of the early manifestations of Helsinki were the Charter 77 movement in Czechoslovakia and Solidarity in Poland.

It would be stretching things a bit to argue that the CSCSE eventually led to the implosion of communism in eastern Europe and the end of the Cold War - the dismal economic perfor-

mance of the command economies was a far more potent factor - but it certainly played some role in intensifying the pressures that the authors of glasnost and perestroika tried (and failed) to accommodate.

Netanyahu is aware of all this; in fact, the idea of a "Helsinki process" in the Middle East conforms very well with his view that real peace in the region depends on a fundamental democratization of Arab regimes.

But Arab rulers, especially Hafez Assad, also appreciate the potentially dangerous, unintended consequences of applying a CSCE model in their neighborhood, and they are determined to avoid repeating the mistakes of their Soviet counterparts. (Assad reportedly still doesn't understand why Mikhail Gorbachev is so admired in the West - after all, his whole ultimate accomplishment was to get his country broken up and himself thrown out of power.)

But even if the Arab rulers are better tactical managers they see no compelling reason to invite the camel of political subversion to stick its CSCSE nose into the tent.

In short, there is no reason to expect that Assad will be any more receptive to CSCSE than he was to "Lebanon First."

Of course that's no reason to stop thinking about it as an intellectual exercise or marketing it as a public relations one.

But there should be no illusion that it could act as a substitute for movement in the bilateral negotiations, or an insurance policy against the dangers of a peace process gone completely off the rails.

The writer is senior research associate at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies.

Beyond quoting the Talmud

MORDECHAI GAFNI

I recall a rainy Friday afternoon in Palm Beach some years ago. A woman was screaming in my study. She was a secular Jew who had only recently become involved in exploring her Jewish identity.

I had performed the funeral service for her six-year-old son only two weeks before. The child had died of leukemia.

Why was this woman, still in the throes of acute grief, outraged to the point of near-hysteria?

It emerged that a friend had brought her a recent clipping from *The Jerusalem Post* International Edition. The article in question quoted a well-known Israeli rabbinical figure as declaring that the children killed at the Habonim junction when an oncoming train smashed into their bus died because the mezzuzot in the homes of their parents were faulty.

My visitor told me vehemently: If Orthodox Judaism said God had killed her son as a punishment for sin she wanted no part of such a religion, or such a God. I explained to her that there was another Judaism, that there were other Orthodox rabbis who did not claim to have a direct line to God.

"Why don't those rabbis speak out?" she asked. Sadly I responded, "They are afraid."

"But what about you?" she challenged. "Why don't you speak out?" Taken aback, I had no answer.

Last week, Rabbi Ovadia Yosef told 8,000 people in Tel Aviv that the cause of all the tragedies befalling the Jewish people today

is Shabbat desecration. He further argued that anyone who flagrantly violates Shabbat cuts himself off from the Jewish people.

To declarations like this the rabbinical establishment has no response. They are afraid, for a lot of reasons. And Rabbi Yosef is a great scholar.

But I cannot remain silent. Because I am a rabbi and because I love Shabbat. Because I respect Rabbi Yosef. And because

and love only, even - and especially - while we argue.

BUT THE issue runs deeper. Rabbi Yosef suggests that all suffering results from sin. He claims to know with certainty how God runs the world. Can any human being know that?

No less a figure than Moses disagreed radically with Rabbi Yosef. Moses is depicted in the Talmud (Berachot 7a) as crying out to God: "Why do good peo-

ple suffer in the world?"

Moses dared to ask; for Rabbi Yosef there is no question. They must have sinned.

The clear implication of Moses' question is that suffering isn't always related to sin. People - and we all know of examples - suffer even when they are good.

Let's look at another book, the book of Job. Its entire point is that we don't understand how God runs the world.

Job's friends argue that Job's suffering must be a result of his "Shabbat desecration." But God sides with Job against his would-be comforters.

The book of Job understands that if we are really in a relationship with God we can live with the uncertainty of not always knowing why things happen. It is only when we are distant from

God that we feel the desperate need to eling to black-and-white schemes of sin and retribution and lash out against the alleged sinners.

Jeremiah, Isaiah, Habakkuk, the great prophetic voices of Israel, all cry out to God in anguish: "Why is there such suffering in Your world?"

Even though these men were prophets who conversed with God they did not presume to understand why people experience horrendous pain during their lives.

There's more to Judaism than quoting the Talmud. There's also taking responsibility for what you say, when you say it, in what context and to whom.

Judaism is about trying to experience God's goodness as a living reality, about reaching out to others in love and understanding and not taking the risk of turning them away through castigation.

Let's be misunderstood: I respect and esteem Rabbi Yosef greatly. But I also respect the spiritual intuitiveness of that wounded mother who challenged me - a representative of Orthodox Judaism - knowing clearly that God hadn't killed her baby as retribution for sin.

Our nation is thirsty for genuine spiritual leadership from people like Rabbi Yosef. We badly need the depth and beauty of Torah and Talmud. But we need it dispensed with kindness and love.

The writer is director of Miloh, the Jerusalem Institute for Jewish Culture.

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NEWS IN FOCUS

The Jerusalem Post, Friday, December 13, 1996

Flesh of our flesh

At the funeral of two murdered settlers, there was none of the old anti-government rhetoric. But Herb Keinon reports that the settlers' anger is just defused, not buried.

BEIT EL's cemetery, sandwiched between rolling hills just outside the settlement, was much too small to accommodate the thousands of mourners at yesterday's funeral of Etti and Ephraim Tzur.

As a result, mourners unable to get into the cemetery stood on terraced hills nearby, straining for a look at what was happening down below. They could see a stretcher, hear the sounds of shovels digging up earth, listen to the eulogies.

The size of yesterday's funeral was similar to another one held at the same site about a year and a half ago for Ohad Bachrach, killed with Ori Shohar while hiking in Wadi Kelt.

Yesterday, as was the case with the Bachrach funeral, the eulogies of the relatives echoed off the hills. Yesterday, as was the case last year, people who didn't know the victims wept openly.

The Psalms recited yesterday, both praising God and calling for Him to take vengeance, were recited at Bachrach's funeral as well. The Psalms gave appropriate voice to the emotions of the speakers and the mourners. And the emotions at the two funerals were obviously similar: heart-rending pain, palpable grief, acute suffering.

But there was one difference. The intense fury levelled at the government during the Labor administration was absent yesterday. There was plenty of anger, but it was aimed at the Palestinian

Authority. Obviously, there was hatred, but it was directed at the killers: Any anger or hatred toward the government or the army was not verbalized, a dramatic break from the way things were prior to the elections just a few months ago.

THE TENURE of the previous government was marked by numerous attacks — so many that government representatives stopped attending funerals. Rarely, if ever, did they attend a funeral of a resident of a settlement.

Yesterday, a handwritten sign at the exit to the Beit El Yeshiva advised students not to talk to the press and not to shout any angry slogans at government or IDF representatives.

This decorum did not exist under the previous administration. Likewise, the previous government did not speak with particular respect or affection toward the settlers.

One remark Yitzhak Rabin made that was particularly galling to the settlers, and which was referred to in one of the eulogies yesterday, was that the government sees its primary responsibility as securing the 97 percent of Israelis who live inside the Green Line. To the 3% in the settlements, these words were jarring.

Terms like "pioneers," "flesh of our flesh," and "heroes" were never used in connection to settlers under the previous govern-

ment. They have returned to the government's lexicon, and explain — at least in part — why anger toward the government was absent from yesterday's funeral.

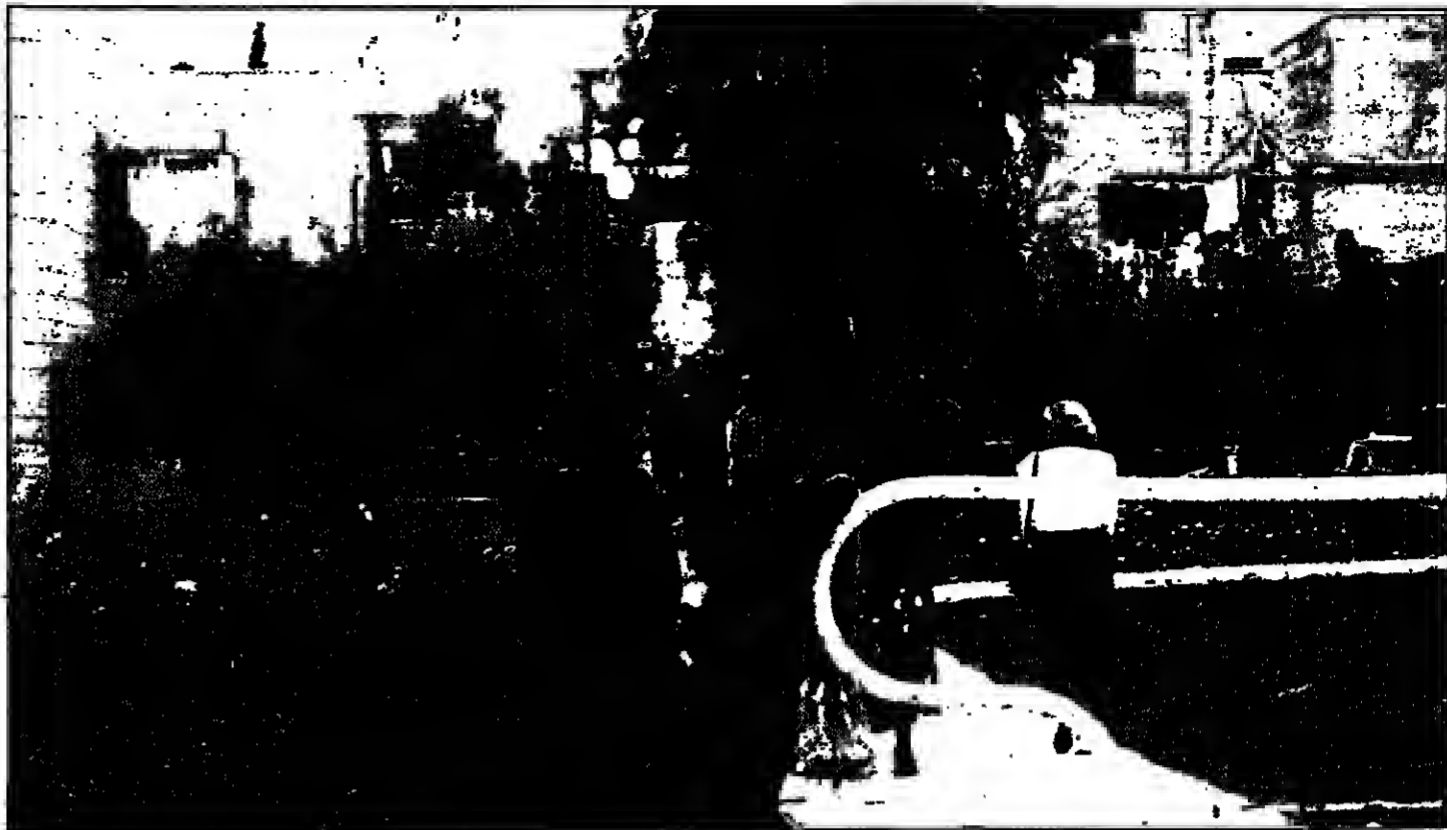
Since Wednesday night's attack, Prime Minister Netanyahu has told the settlement community pretty much everything it wanted to hear. He pushed the right buttons. The anger over the attack was defused.

Defused, but not buried. In his eulogy yesterday, Netanyahu called the Tzur family pioneers, "who live among pioneers, the heroes of our time." The prime minister said the time has come, after years of a smear campaign at home and abroad, to say, "Nobody is better than they are. There is nobody like them to continue Israel's heritage, the love of Israel, the love of the land."

"You are the flesh of our flesh," he said. "There is no difference in the security responsibility this government feels to Beit El or Beit Kama, Shilo or Herzliya. There is no difference. We will increase our efforts in this place in order to ensure the security of all Israeli residents."

Music to the ears of a community that felt intentionally marginalized by the Rabin and Peres governments. Even more significant, balm following the type of loss sustained Wednesday night.

The pain is made easier to bear with these type of words, said Mordechai Rabinovitch, a leading settlement activist from Kochav Ya'acov. "It is easier hearing that kind of a message than reactions we heard in the past like, 'What were they doing there in the first place?'" But, Rabinovitch added, if the government on this occasion does not respond with a constructive, Zionist response — meaning more construction in the settlements — then the patience with the government will end and the anger will return. "This license will expire, if there is not a real response to this tragedy," he said.



Beit El residents after the attack. "You start to think, it could have been me. It could have been my wife or my family." (Diana Henders)

inherited this situation from the previous one.

The situation was complex for the Labor governments as well, he is reminded by a visitor, but they were not given any grace.

"They brought it on themselves," he replied. "They got us into the accords." Nakonechny termed the mood in the settlement one of numbness. "The way it usually is after a loss in the family."

CONCERN with family is an emotion that naturally surfaces after a terror attack, said Tuvia Victor, a resident of the settlement for the last 10 years. "You start to think, it could have been me," Victor said. "It could have been

my wife or my family. That is what you think after something like this. But you try not to think about it, avoid the issue."

Victor was among the first at the scene of the attack Wednesday night. "Each time you see or hear about something like this, you go home, go to each of the children, and just thank God it wasn't you."

Although conversations with Victor, Nakonechny and other Beit El residents reveal the obvious opposition to the Oslo agreement, there were few calls at the funeral to pull out of the talks. Rather, the theme was for the government to demand that the PA do what it is obliged to do to catch and extradite the killers, and for the government to expand settle-

ments each time there is an attack. Calls to expand the settlements or build new ones after each attack were rarely — if ever — heard when Labor was in power, because of the realization that they would fall on deaf ears. Now the expectations are different.

Yoel Tzur, whose wife and son were killed Wednesday night, gave voice to this sentiment during the words he spoke at the graveside. "Look at this hill to the north where the water tower is," he said, addressing Netanyahu. "I would like the government to start digging and build a thousand housing units as an answer to the tragedy. We worked hard for you to become prime minister, and we don't regret it. But you have to be strong."

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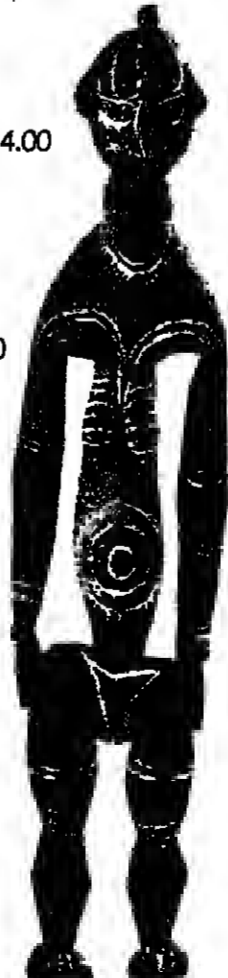
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Primitive Artifacts from Papua New Guinea
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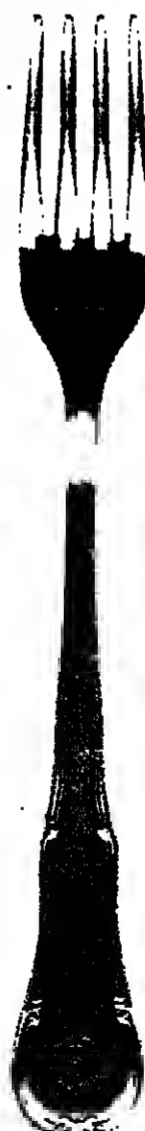
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In the photo: Maj.-Gen. (res.) Danny Mitt - Director of the Libi Fund, awards a prize to the best Commander of the Lebanon Liaison Unit.
Left to right: Maj.-Gen. Amiel Sarid - Head of Logistics and Technology Branch; Maj.-Gen. Gidon Shohar - Head of Manpower; Maj.-Gen. (res.) Danny Mitt - Head of Libi Fund. Photograph - Yoel Tzur

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Beyond Hebron... The future is now

The Hebron pullback looks easy, compared to what is to come, David Makovsky reports

MOST of the public assumes that after a Hebron pullback, all the other thorny issues of the peace process are on hold until 1999, when so-called "final status" talks on a variety of issues, including Jerusalem, are expected to be concluded.

In fact, the future is almost now. Due to a key section of the Oslo II interim agreement, the Palestinians believe they are entitled to no less than almost the entire West Bank by next September - before final status talks even begin. Settlements would become islands in a Palestinian sea, as opposed to the present situation where the Palestinians are more like islands in an Israeli sea.

Differences on this issue, known by the acronym FRDs ("Further Redeployments" or IDF pullbacks) will not only surface in the months ahead, but are one of the main elements blocking the Hebron deal. Palestinian Authority leader Yasser Arafat wants an affirmation from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that he will carry out three pullbacks by next September. Israel, according to Arafat, has already missed the September 1996 deadline for a first FRD.

But Netanyahu, realizing complexity of these redeployments, wants to skip the whole issue and go directly to the final status. Ironically, while in the past Israel viewed the interim agreement as the key to dealing with painful

issues of final status, Israel now wants a final-status approach while the Palestinians have discovered the redeeming features of the interim agreement. Arafat's adviser Ahmed Tibi reflected a broader view among the Palestinian leadership when he said, "Israel cannot get out of fulfilling the interim agreement."

Even Foreign Minister David Levy, in a briefing for reporters this week, said he did not see how Israel could avoid continuing implementation of the interim agreement.

In either event - the pullbacks or the less likely alternative of going to final status - the public should soon be getting a better - but perhaps not a complete - grasp of how Netanyahu envisions a final-status deal with the Palestinians and how he intends getting there.

TOP Palestinian negotiator for the Oslo II accord Ahmed Qreia, known by his patronym Abu Ala, told *The Jerusalem Post*, "it is my assessment that we will have 85 or 87 percent of the West Bank [by next September] at the end of the interim agreement." Today, the Palestinians completely control just the urban areas of the territories and immediate environs, which consists of about 3 percent of the territory, known as Area A.

Qreia said: "Oslo II said that at the end of the interim agreement, Israel keeps only settlements, Jerusalem and military loca-

tions." All the rest should be completely under the control of the Palestinian Authority. After the interim agreement, this should be the 'A' area under the PA.

Some Israeli officials insist that it is more likely that by the end of the FRDs, the area comprising the estimated 440 Palestinian villages, now labeled Area B, will turn into Area A.

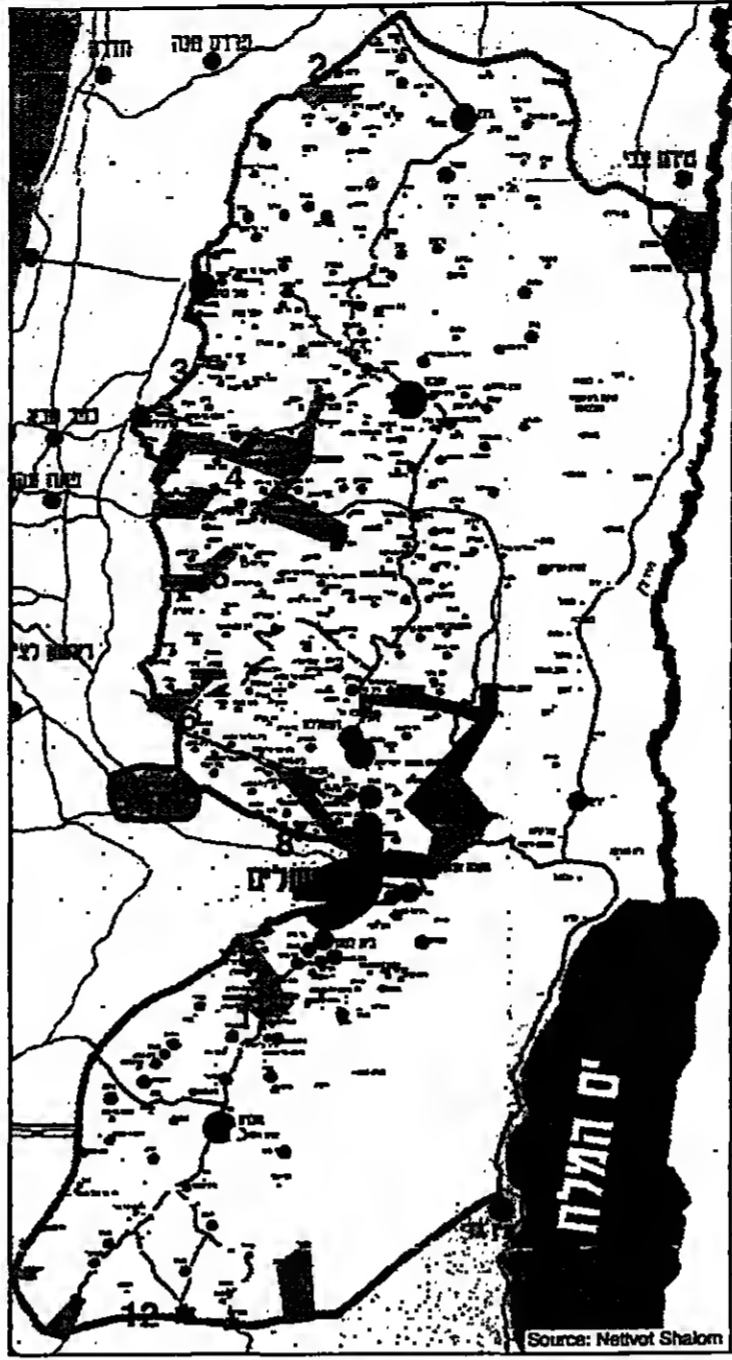
Practically speaking, this means that Palestinians will have overriding security authority over an extra 27 percent of the West Bank. The IDF cannot enter such areas unless, as occurred in an unprecedented fashion this week in Ramallah after the Beit El terror attack, it is invited in by the PA.

Even this narrower Israeli definition will increase the isolation of some of the settlements near densely populated Palestinian areas, and bring to the fore, with greater force, the very future and viability of those specific settlements.

The notion of FRDs emerged from last year's Taba talks which led up to the Oslo II accord. Qreia pressed for Israel to yield about a quarter of the West Bank in each of three installments over an 18-month period, leaving the final quarter to be the subject of final-status talks.

However, the foreign minister Shimon Peres convinced Arafat that this was unrealistic, as Israel could certainly not make large territorial concessions before the elections, scheduled for November 1996. Instead, they agreed that the extent of the first two pullbacks would be unspecified, but by the end of the third, Israel would indeed make a major pullback.

Labor MK Ehud Barak, then interior minister, was the only minister involved in the peace process who objected at the time. When Peres sought authorization for the FRDs from Yitzhak Rabin, Barak said: "this puts us in an impossible dilemma. If we give so much territory to redeployments, we have no cards when we are faced with the toughest final-status issues. However, if we go to final status now, it could lead to a dead-end because the sides are not yet ripe. It is not good for Israel and not good for peace," Barak was pillo-



Beilin-Abu Mazen Plan

Population centers 12 Jewish settlement blocs to be annexed to Israel

ried by Labor critics who insisted he did not understand the peace process. The origin of the clause relating to the redeployment can be partially traced to the Camp David Accords, which refers to the IDF pulling back to "specified security locations." Oslo II broadens the pullback idea by narrowing Israel's responsibilities from "security" to more limited "military" locations. Israel's authority in the territory therefore narrows even though its Jewish settlement population is greater than it was during Camp David. Then there were a few thousand settlers, but today there are approximately 140,000 people.

Qreia said that any implausible definition of "specified military locations" would be deemed unacceptable to the Palestinians. "If Israel needs to keep soldiers on a certain mountain or

patrolling borders in the Jordan Valley, we can discuss this. But we cannot discuss this if the Israelis want to use this clause in such a way which makes it clear that they are not serious."

Joel Singer, the former Foreign Ministry legal adviser who negotiated both the original Oslo and Oslo II agreements, puts forward a different interpretation. In a Jewish legal journal, he wrote that Israel has the right to unilaterally "specify" which parts of the West Bank it considers to be a military location, noting that the accord does not use the usual language of "agreed upon" military locations. Foreign Ministry officials say that Israel will use Singer's interpretation when entering these talks.

However, the legal perspective is only one side. The political reality is more complex. The widely divergent expectations could put Netanyahu into a no-win situation. Specifically, if Netanyahu yields to the Palestinian interpretation on pullbacks, he will be ceding almost all his territorial bargaining chips, and hence lose leverage before the issue of Jerusalem is even raised.

On the other hand, if he does not yield, the Palestinians will almost certainly seek to take their case to what they feel is the highest court - the court of international public opinion.

Arafat has proved more effective than Netanyahu, when he says about Hebron, "I am not asking for the moon. I only want what has been agreed upon." Moreover, this widening gap of expectations incurs the risk, as seen in last September's Western Wall riots, of sustained Palestinian unrest.

This deep-felt concern about the next phase of the peace process has been the biggest force fueling both stepped-up calls within Netanyahu's own coalition for a national unity government, and calls for moving directly to final-status talks. A package deal on final-status issues would avoid, in the eyes of some, the "salami-like" approach to yielding slices of the territories now, depriving Israel of any future negotiating leverage.

WHETHER by way of further interim pullbacks or final status talks, it is critical that the Netanyahu government has a vision of how it wants the talks with the Palestinians to end. While there have been a flurry of territorial ideas on the future status of the West Bank, for clarity's sake it is useful to look at three different paradigms.

• **Cantons.** The first approach is one that Ariel Sharon calls "cantons" and Arafat derisively calls "Bantustan," in allusion to the old South Africa's homelands idea. The idea is to ensure the Palestinians have no territorial contiguity between their cities, so they could never form a state. Instead, settlements and roads would essentially box in Palestinian urban areas. According to this approach, these areas would not only be boxed in, but the IDF could enter these areas at will.

In Netanyahu's book *A Place Among the Nations* published three years ago, he endorses this idea but uses the American name of "counties." Netanyahu writes: "Israeli military and security forces must have access to every part of the territory... It would be appropriate, therefore, to develop a system of four self-managing Arab counties: Jenin, Nablus, Ramallah, and Hebron... I propose that this arrangement of self-managing counties be implemented first for the interim period and later incorporated into the negotiations for a final settlement."

However, the Oslo accord has apparently made Netanyahu think his old ideas are unworkable. By the eve of the May elections, Netanyahu distanced himself from this. When asked then by the *Post* what he thought about cantons, he responded, "I think they are not going to put us in isolated little islands and we are not going to do it to them either."

If Netanyahu does not accept the canton idea, the government should not therefore seek to expand the Jewish settlements alongside densely populated Palestinian areas in the heartland of the West Bank, settlements which were mostly established by Sharon in the late '70s and early '80s for this purpose. For example, it would be hard to understand the logic of plans to expand places such as Nablus, which is just northeast of Ramallah, as suggested this week by settlement leaders in *The Washington Post*.

• **The Third Way.** This map calls for Israeli territorial presence along two columns, namely western Samaria and the Jordan Valley, providing Israel with just under half of the territories. One official in the Prime Minister's Office said: "Our territorial ideas and the Third Way's are very similar. Anybody who thinks we can significantly expand in the middle of Judea and Samaria is mistaken." At a meeting with Jordan Valley settlers earlier this month, Netanyahu declared that

Israel wanted to annex this area in final-status talks. Of course, in a move laden with symbolism, it should be recalled that Netanyahu took Dan Shomron, who headed the Third Way for a brief period, as his chief negotiator.

• **Beilin-Abu Mazen** (see map). This idea, whose outlines were agreed upon last year by two architects of the original Oslo accord, Yossi Beilin and Mahmoud Abbas (known by the patronym Abu Mazen), based on a map by Yitzhak Frankenthal of the religious peace movement Netivot Shalom, calls for Israel to annex seven percent of the territory where an estimated 75 percent of the settlers live, in return for Palestinian statehood. This idea has been at the center of Beilin's effort to reach common ground with some Likud MK's, including Michael Eitan. With the Netanyahu government not welcoming the seven percent idea as a solution, the Fatah Council this week, apparently for tactical reasons, took its support for the concept off the table.

According to the Frankenthal map, Israel would not need to annex a single Arah village, while annexing settlement blocs in Gush Etzion, Ma'aleh Adumim, and western Samaria as a part of border modifications. (In the absence of a peace package, neither Menachem Begin nor Yitzhak Shamir succeeded in annexing a single settlement.) Under this idea, both Israel and the Palestinians would have territorial contiguity, as "blobs" or "sleeves" which would be connected to the Green Line.

WHEN Netanyahu notes how Labor expanded existing settlements by about 40 percent over the last four years, it should be noted that this growth took place within what Rabin considered the "Greater Jerusalem" area, embracing Gush Etzion and Ma'aleh Adumim along with some building slightly east of the Green Line in western Samaria.

Despite the endless press reports about Netanyahu's plans for settlement expansion, the only ones which are known to have gained any approval by the authorities fall within the seven percent lines. Specifically, the only settlement expansion which has gone through full approval is Kiryat Sefer, which is just east of the Green Line, near Modi'in. Two others - Emanuel and Kedumim - are barely within the seven percent lines and have won preliminary approval of the Civil Administration, although they have yet to win final approval from Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

Here comes Netanyahu's dilemma, and perhaps even his opportunity. The US is very worried that Netanyahu is about to announce a flurry of settlement expansion to be timed with a Hebron deal - which could undermine US efforts to improve the tense relations between Netanyahu and Israel's Arab neighbors. Such plans could also have a broader impact on the Netanyahu government's ability to forge a strong relationship with a second-term Bill Clinton, no longer bound by electoral considerations.

However, declaring that he has no intention of expanding beyond the seven percent line may be significant in placating some American and Palestinian fears, although Netanyahu apparently believes such a statement would hurt him within his own coalition. Nonetheless, even if final status is only down the road, the time for trade-offs should be now.

Netanyahu might be able to defuse inevitable tensions with the US, Palestinians, and the international community if he could work out a *quid pro quo* with the Palestinians on the FRDs. In so doing, he would seek to assure Palestinians that Israel is not about to create more "facts on the ground" that would thwart an overall peace deal with the Palestinians, while placate loyal Netanyahu supporters.

Netanyahu would promise Arafat that expansion of existing settlements would be limited to the seven percent area approved by Abu Mazen, perhaps along with a couple other strategic areas. In return, Israel would significantly enlarge Area A. The net effect will be the emergence of evolving zones of influence in the territories - an almost rolling final-status agreement which would unfold over the next three years. (In the final talks, Netanyahu will obviously stake a claim to more than the seven percent of the territory favored by Beilin and Labor.)

But, if tensions on the ground remain high, talks may never even get to that point, unless a *modus vivendi* is worked out now.

Without clear blueprints on how to handle the FRDs and settlement issues and, critically, how they relate to each other during 1997, profoundly unsettling consequences are possible. If this is not handled properly, the public should buckle its seat belts for a roller-coaster ride next year.

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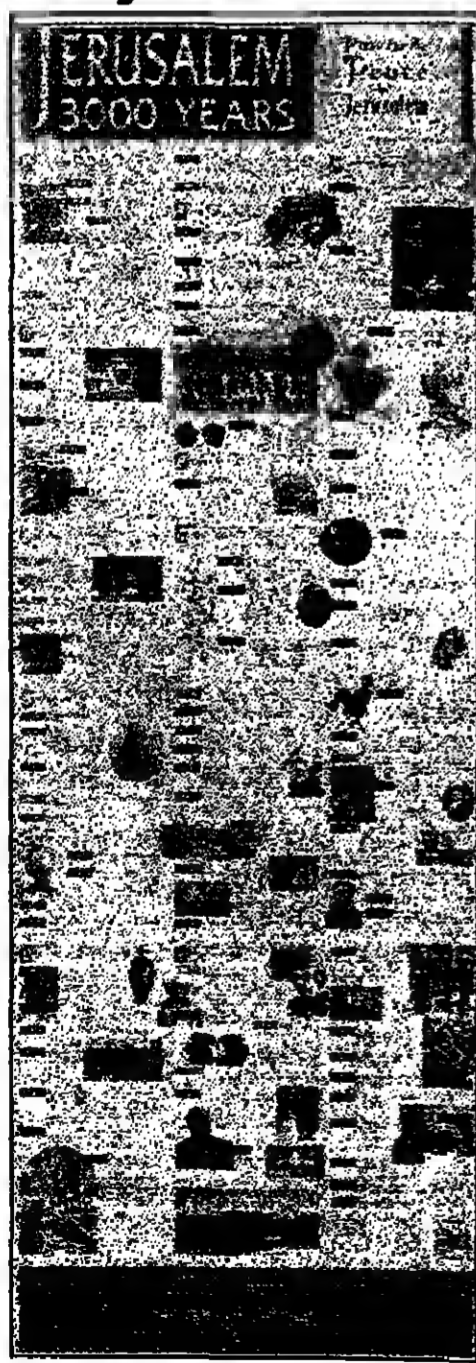
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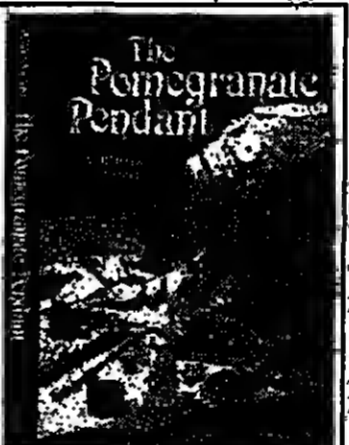
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The Gustav Heinemann Institute
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The Bertha Von Suttner Research Program

Modern Syria (19th-20th Centuries): Social, Economic and Political Issues

Tuesday-Wednesday, December 17-18 1996
Observation Gallery, 30th Floor, Eshkol Tower
University of Haifa

Tuesday, December 17

8:45 Greetings: Prof. Aharon Ben-Zeev, Dean of Research, University of Haifa
Dr. Karlheinz Koppe, The Bertha Von Suttner Foundation
Dr. Ibrahim Geris, Head of the Jewish-Arab Center, University of Haifa
Opening Remarks: Prof. Joseph Ginat, Former Head of the Jewish-Arab Center, University of Haifa
I: Syria in the 19th Century
9:00 Session I: Internal Social and Political Issues
Chairperson: Dr. Joseph Nevo, University of Haifa
Prof. Thomas Philipp, Institute of Political Science and Modern Middle Eastern Studies, Friedrich Alexander University, Germany
Shifting Centers of Political and Economic Power on the Syrian Coast during the 19th Century
Dr. Butrus Abu-Maneh, University of Haifa
The "Province of Syria" Under the Governorship of Mohammed Rashid Pasha: 1866-1871
Dr. Yoram Shalit, The Jewish-Arab Center
Europeans in Damascus and Aleppo at the End of the 18th Century and the Beginning of the 19th Century
Dr. Tufar Buzpinar, Center for Islamic Studies, Turkish Religious Foundation, Turkey
The Question of Citizenship of the Algerian Immigrants in Syria in the 19th Century
Itzhak Weismann, University of Haifa
Sufi Tradition and the Emergence of Salafiyah in Hamidian Damascus

II: Syria in the 20th Century
11:30 Session II: Internal Issues in Syria-Elites and Intellectuals
Chairperson: Dr. Amalia Levanoni, University of Haifa
Prof. Amatzia Baran, University of Haifa
Syrian Intellectuals and Democracy
Dr. Rana Kabani (not attending the conference; television, video-tape interview from London by Ms. Nomi Levitsky*, Journalist, Yedioth Ahronoth)
Dr. Gunther Lohmeyer, Free University of Berlin, Germany
Opposition in Syria
Dr. Eyal Ziser, Tel-Aviv University
Syria: The Struggle for Power
Prof. Mohammed Muslih, Long Island University, U.S.A
Syria's Foreign Policy as it is Discussed in the Political Writings of Syrian Academicians and Intellectuals
Mr. Masud Hamdan, University of Haifa
Protest Theatre in Syria After 1967
Dr. Alasdair Drysdale, University of New Hampshire, Durham, U.S.A. commentator
15:00 Session III: Panel of Ambassadors
Chairperson: Prof. Joseph Ginat
Opening: M.K. Shimon Peles
Ambassador Tahseen Basheer, Former head of President Saadats Office, Egypt
Dr. Mohamed Bassioumy, The Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Israel (Will participate only)
Mr. Ahmed Ould Teguedi, Head of Interests Section of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania
Mr. Miguel Anhael Moradinos, Special Delegate of Europe in the Middle East
Representative of the U.S.A Embassy to Israel

Wednesday, December 18

9:00 Session I: Trends in Social and Economic Development
Chairperson: Prof. Gad Gilbar, University of Haifa
Dr. Moshe Shemesh, Ben Gurion University
Syria: The Struggle Over Water With Israel 1959-1967 Between Confrontation and Frustration
Dr. Moshe Efrat, College of Management, Tel Aviv
Syria: Economic Development, Achievements, Problems and Prospects (1980-94)
Dr. M. Zubair Diab, Syrian Intellectual, London, U.K. (not attending the conference; television video tape interview from London)
Dr. Uri Kupferschmidt, University of Haifa
Radical Islam in Syria
Dr. Onn Winckler, University of Haifa
Demographic Changes in Syria Under the Ba'ath Regime
Prof. Volker Perthes, SWP Research Institute for Security and International Politics, Germany
Commentator
11:30 Session II: Nation-State and Ethnopolitics
Chairperson: Dr. Abraham Brichs, Head, Political Science Dept., University of Haifa
Zeidan Atshi, Ministry of Education
The Druze (in Syria, Lebanon and Israel) and their Moral Logic Concerning A Nation-State
Dr. Birgit Schabler, Friedrich Alexander University of Erlangen, Germany
Conflict and Intergration: "The Case of Syria's Druzes"
Prof. David Kushner, University of Haifa
Turkey-Syria Relations
Dr. Kais Firro, University of Haifa
The Attitude of the Alawi Elites Towards Islam and Nationalism During the Mandatory Period
Dr. Meir Zamir, Ben Gurion University
Syria's Political and Territorial Claims in Lebanon; 1936-1939
14:30 Session III: Syria and the Middle East Peace Process
Chairperson: Dr. Karlheinz Koppe, The Bertha Von Suttner Foundation
Prof. Moshe Maoz, The Hebrew University
Syria and Israel: Probing for Peace
Dr. Muhammad Mal'Ala, Dr. Naser Tahboub, Amman, Jordan
Syrian Position Regarding the Peace Process
Prof. Daniel Pipes, Middle East Quarterly Pennsylvania, U.S.A
Haifa al-Asad's Double Game
Prof. Zeev Maoz, Tel-Aviv University
Strategic Interactions Between Syria and Israel
Gen. A.M. Aggag, Egypt
Syrian Israeli Peace Process in Egyptian Eyes
Mr. Patrick Seale (not attending the conference; television video tape interview from London, by Ms. Nomi Levitsky*)

16:30 CLOSING REMARKS
Chairperson: Prof. Gabriel Ben Dor, University of Haifa
Participants only
The Public is invited
* Special Thanks To Ms. Nomi Levitsky and the Editorial Board of Yedioth Ahronoth for their help.

Daring missions deep down under

The golden years of Israel's elite underwater battalion may be over, Steve Rodan writes.

MATAN Poliboda and Yair Engel had a dream. While some of their friends sought to fly supersonic warplanes, they aimed to be divers of the deep: members of an elite group of Navy frogmen that carried out daring missions.

The dream ended in the murky waters of the Haifa Bay on December 5, when the bodies of both men were found amid the sunken wreckage - still tied together by a rope that was to ensure that they wouldn't lose each other.

For IDF commanders, their deaths highlighted the latest in a series of troubling accidents in Shayetet 13, the elite underwater commando battalion that has seen better days. In the last five years, four members of the unit have been killed by accidents and many others have been injured.

The early years of Shayetet were the stuff of legends. The unit was formed in the 1950s, modeled after the famed Italian naval commandos who operated during World War II. Yohai Bin-Nun was its flamboyant commander and the atmosphere resembled that of the Palmah underground.

But the Shayetet reflected the rest of the navy, a small force where discipline was lax and professionalism was low.

The low point was the 1967 Six Day War. Then, the Navy won approval for five attacks on enemy ports. It was an ambitious mission - way beyond the capacity of the service.

over Shayetet and the unit became professional. Unlike his predecessors, Almog went on missions. He drilled the importance of constant training into his men. He integrated the commando force with the rest of the Navy fleet, rather than maintain it as merely a unit of frogmen on call.

The result was dramatic. In the 1973 Yom Kippur War, the Navy, this time with a less ambitious plan, struck four times at Egyptian ports and overwhelmed Arab forces considerably larger than its own.

The raid on Egypt's Green Island in 1969 was the best example, where Shayetet surprised and overpowered an Egyptian army force on the strategic Red Sea island, thought to have contained surface-to-air missiles that could threaten Israeli warplanes.

During the Lebanon war, the Shayetet participated in numerous commando raids, alongside such units as the General Reconnaissance Unit. They surprised PLO fighters and their Arab allies within Lebanon. During one raid, the Shayetet killed 12 enemy troops.

"A frogman is like a pilot," says [Ret.] Lt.-Col. David Schick, former deputy commander of Shayetet. "They are very special and demand special qualities that only a psychiatrist can analyze."

"The benefit of the Six Day War was that the Navy learned its lesson," Almog recalls.

But in the mid-1970s, the Shayetet disproved the doubters in the military when they sunk a ship with weapons bound for Lebanon, a country that was turning into a PLO stronghold.

By 1978, Almog had convinced the IDF chief of staff to use Shayetet as an amphibious commando force far from Israel's shores.

Col. Hanina Amishav was fired by then-COS Lt.-Gen. Rafael Eitan because of a training accident in which Capt. Oded Elias was killed off the Sinai coast.

Amishav's successor was Ami Ayalon, who later became Navy commander and now is head of the General Security Services. From the start, Shayetet veterans say, Ayalon was the odd man out.

By the late 1980s, after Ayalon left the Shayetet, the unit became embroiled in a power struggle. Ayalon was regarded as a careerist, with the backing of Almog, and the daring commandos of the 1970s were soon placed on the sidelines.

Morever, the unit was inundated by a new type of recruit. He was no longer a kibbutznik but a city slicker who graduated from a navy academy.

from his political superiors, drastically decreased the number of special operations.

The result, military sources say, is that the Shayetet has not been called to participate in special forces operations, particularly in Lebanon.

"At a certain point, two things happened. First, the army began playing it safe and the Shayetet was the first to be out. The second was that the Shayetet commanders didn't want to rock the boat and their careers."

Today, the Shayetet remains a busy unit, although its operations are not made public. The exercise in which Poliboda and Engel, both first sergeants, were killed, was regarded as routine.

An inquiry committee appointed by OC Navy Adm. Alex Tal is expected to return with conclusions within the next few days.

Regardless of what the committee says, Schick agrees that the Shayetet needs a face-lift and a new sense of purpose.

"I would say that they are not being exploited in an efficient way by either the general staff of the army, or the different divisions and with the Internal Security Ministry," he says.

SAFER

international narcotics trafficking from Europe and South America. Judaica thefts from Hungary, domestic violence, traffic accidents, rioting and violent political demonstrations, the rise and subsequent demise of casinos, trolleys, fraud, and the two-month siege by Uzi Meshulam are amongst other issues dealt with by Last and his force. No easy task.

Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who was murdered right in the center of the city. The kidnapping of 19-year old Keren Gerler, daughter of a wealthy diamond dealer, by Avi Saban, who was later shot dead by police, also influenced Last, who initially put a total blackout on the incident to avoid endangering lives.



TA Mayor Ronni Milo wishes Last well at his going-away party this week at Kfar Hamaccabiah.

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The 1994 murder of cabbie Derek Roth by two teenage youths - the first murder of its kind here - also deeply shocked Last.

Last cannot be described as a cold fish. He is warm and friendly but on the other hand, when annoyed, does not hide his anger. His speech is animated, and he uses the colloquialisms of the "man in the street."

At the beginning of his term, he personally toured all police stations - incognito - and went to remand hearings in the city's Magistrate's Court - in plain clothes - to supervise proceedings and the behavior of both policemen and officers.

Last is known to say exactly what he thinks. If one of his policemen has done something wrong, or even committed an offense, he is punished to the full degree, or handed over to higher authorities for judgment.

LAST WAS born in 1946 in Heidelberg, Germany. Two years later he immigrated with his family and settled in Ramle. He holds a law degree, and a master's in social sciences. He enlisted in the police force in 1967, after serving in the IDF paratroopers corps, and in the Border Police - "the greens" - in police jargon.

"According to Last, married to Ruti and the father of three, the man in the street and his safety and well-being are the most important factors. "Complaints by civilians about police behavior or failure to deal with complaints to police were always answered within 24 hours," he says.

The standard of police has also improved, he says. Pointing to a book of newly prepared statistics, he shows that that 93 percent of policemen completed high school while 5 percent have a university degree. Among officers, 34 percent have a university education.

"The old adage that two cops are necessary - one to read and one to write - no longer applies in the force," he says.

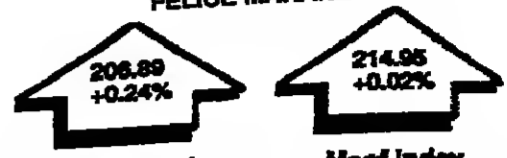
"It still hurts that we cannot solve all murders," he says. "Underworld figures will always fight amongst themselves and in some cases kill each other. With these people we are conducting a battle of wits."

JAVICO 150

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Stocks steady as traders watch budget debate

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



Two-Sided index

Maof Index

STOCKS were little changed yesterday as optimism the government will be able to cut spending was offset by concern the balance-of-payments deficit was growing. Companies closing unchanged included Koor Industries and Teva Pharmaceutical. Koor's American depository receipts were up 1/8 at 16 7/8 in early trading in New York. Teva's ADRs were up 1/2 at 46 3/4. The Maof Index rose 0.02 percent to 214.95, and the Two-sided Index gained 0.24 percent to 206.89. The general bond index was unchanged. The Maof Index fell 0.7% this week and the Two-sided index rose 0.3%. Of 973 shares trading across the exchange, nearly six shares fell for every five that rose. Some NIS 90.4 million of shares changed hands, NIS 15m. below Wednesday's level. "The market is positive about the budget, about a possible agreement with the Palestinians and lower interest rates," said Gidi Halpern, a portfolio manager at Tel Aviv investment firm Meitav. If the government succeeds in cutting spending, the Bank of Israel is expected to reduce interest rates. In the weeks ahead, parliament's finance committee will debate and may make changes. "There's a feeling that (Bank of Israel Gov. Jacob Frenkel) will lower rates at the end of January if the Knesset approves the budget," said Halpern. The central bank's monetary policy is also likely to be influenced by November's CPI, due for release Sunday after trading ends. Expectations range around an increase of 0.5% to 0.7% in the month, said Halpern. The inflationary expectations for the year ahead have risen recently from about 9.5% to 10%, he added. Halpern added that investors were concerned about how US stocks would perform in days ahead. "I thought today's trading would be worse because of the U.S.," he said. (Bloomberg)

Eurobourses little changed, pressured by unpredictable Dow

LONDON (Reuters) - European stocks were dragged down in late trading yesterday by a volatile Wall Street which quickly shed early gains in a bout of profit-taking. European bourses had an unsettled day, with most seeing their gains eroded at the close after spurring forward when weaker-than-expected US retail sales figures allayed fears of an imminent rise in interest rates. Nervous investors throughout the day kept a wary eye on New York, where the Dow Industrial average has risen nearly 30 percent this year. Many believed a downturn was overdue. When Wall Street, which made a positive start on the subdued inflationary pressure report, suddenly turned sour and fell, European bourses got the jitters. In Frankfurt, the IBIS index that measures computerized trading climbed by 0.7% after the US data eased interest-rate fears, but the index slipped back to show a gain of only 0.4% at the finish. The 30-share DAX index up 6.03 at 2,847.08. In Paris, stocks made a modest advance by mid-afternoon, then retreated to a slight loss at the finish. The CAC-40 share index finished down 1.17 at 2,212.11. On the currency front, the dollar ended the European session comfortably above 1.54 marks and 113 yen as the prospects for agreement on an EU stability pact improved.

Dow stocks continue tumble

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks were pounded lower yesterday by aggressive selling from investors, who chose to book profits even after fresh indications that the economy is growing moderately and inflation is in check. At the close on Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average was down 98.81 to 6,303.71. Two-thirds of the losses came in the last hour of trading. Declining issues outnumbered advances by 9 to 5 on the New York Stock Exchange. NYSE volume totaled 492.76 million shares, vs. 494.19 million in the previous session. The Standard and Poor's 500-stock index fell 11.42 to 729.31, and the NYSE's composite index fell 5.25 to 384.29. The Nasdaq composite index declined 10.80 to 1,298.32, and the American Stock Exchange's market value index fell 4.81 to 579.11. Stocks started the day higher after three encouraging economic reports, but the rally was over in the first hour. Investors are jittery about a host of issues, beginning with last week's statement by Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan that stocks were in the throes of "irrational exuberance." Some experts said Greenspan was trying to talk the market lower, and may even be preparing to increase interest rates, if not this month then after the first of the year. Earlier this week, there were reports that Japanese investors, who have been crucial participants in the United States bond market, may withdraw their support. More important to the stock market were anecdotal indications that US annual fund investors may be lightening up on US stocks. Investors concentrated their selling in names that are showing strong recent returns. The Dow industrials were led lower by Philip Morris, down sharply after a strong gain on Wednesday. McDonalds fell sharply as well. But computer-related stocks were mixed, with some benefiting for the second day from an enthusiastic reception by analysts at a conference in San Francisco. Intel was up more than 2 points.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SFR, PFF. Rows include STERLING, YEN, SFR, PFF.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices and changes, categorized by Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Change.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries including New York, London, Frankfurt, and Paris. Lists company names and their respective stock prices.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing exchange rates for U.S. Dollar, Sterling, and German mark against NIS.

NEW STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrials, DJ Transport, etc.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei 225, etc.

Israeli stocks in US

Table of Israeli stocks listed in the US, including Amgen, Anet, etc.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crosses rates (US)

Table of dollar cross rates for various currencies.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates for different terms and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Table of foreign financial data including futures, options, and mutual funds.

INFLATION COMMODITIES

US commodities

Table of US commodity prices for various goods.

London commodities

Table of London commodity prices.

Spot market metals (US)

Table of spot market metal prices.

New York metal futures

Table of New York metal futures prices.

London metal fixes

Table of London metal fix prices.

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Arab 'Equality Conference' begins

DAVID RUDGE

AN international conference on equality opens in Nazareth today as part of a growing campaign by Israeli Arabs to press for the same rights, opportunities and facilities that their Jewish counterparts receive.

from abroad are slated to speak at the conference, which is being organized by the forum of Arab Council Heads and other bodies. No cabinet members or other government officials have been invited.

"The time has come to remedy that situation by bringing the level of all services and infrastructure, budgets and so forth, up to the level of those in the Jewish sector and ensure that Arabs have full equality," he added.

(Continued from Page 1)

Through the years Generali attempted to recoup its assets from the Czech regime, eventually amassing by 1988 the current-day equivalent of \$8,453,497.

(Continued from Page 1)

ambush took place. The army continues to keep Ramallah under closure, which officially means no one goes in and no one comes out.

GENERALI

it, it is with the Czech companies which succeeded Generali," Ben-Porat said. These companies were run by the state.

(Continued from Page 1)

tridges and cannon shells. The soldiers confiscated the ammunition and Israel Police launched an investigation into the matter.

PFLP

act is a negative reaction." "We condemn the killing of innocents wherever they are and whoever they are," Arafat said, an apparent reference to the Beit El shootings.

(Continued from Page 1)

speaking in a matter-of-fact, military fashion, Tzur, a major in the reserves, said: "I returned and the emergency services had arrived. The wounded were evacuated, and - as was reported - we lost our wife and mother on the operating table. We now have to get used to the new situation."

VICTIMS

Earlier in the day, he told Israel Radio "[Netanyahu] must be firm and say that every place where a Jew is harmed, a settlement will be established or expanded. An Arab who goes out on an attack should know that he is, with his own hands, leading to the building and strengthening of the settlement in Judea and Samaria."

(Continued from Page 1)

speaking in a matter-of-fact, military fashion, Tzur, a major in the reserves, said: "I returned and the emergency services had arrived. The wounded were evacuated, and - as was reported - we lost our wife and mother on the operating table. We now have to get used to the new situation."

Woman whose marriage not recognized by IDF released from jail

THE IDF yesterday released Shiri Druckman Arnold, who was married in a civil ceremony in May, from the military prison where she had been serving time for desertion since Monday.

Married women are released from their compulsory military service, under IDF regulations. However, the IDF refused to recognize Druckman's civil marriage to a non-Jewish British citizen - even though the Interior Ministry had - and found her guilty of desertion and sentenced her to 28 days' imprisonment. It was the second time she had been imprisoned for desertion since getting married.

has lived in Israel for five years and recently applied for citizenship. "Why don't they release her from the army, she is already married. She is my wife, and she does not need to be in the army. What do they have against her?" Arnold said before her release yesterday.

Court rejects Deri's request to see evidence

JERUSALEM District Court yesterday rejected a request by the defense in the trial of Shas MK Aryeh Deri to obtain all the evidence considered by the Gidron committee, which examined allegations the General Security Service and police leaked information to the defendants.

issue of the leaks was irrelevant to the guilt or innocence of the defendants, Deri, Moshe and Aryeh Weinberg, and Yom-Tov Rubin.

Other BackWeb channels include inquiry.com (a site for information technology professionals); Jumbo (an archive of 75,000 freeware and shareware programs); NetRadio Network (a round-the-clock Internet-only radio network); ResourceWorks (a designer and developer of educational courses geared to managers and info-tech professionals); SmartGames (a cornucopia of puzzles); and American Singles (a network of singles, with lists of new members, events and products of interest to unmarried people).

POST

(Continued from Page 1)

BackWeb is best utilized by people with 16 megabytes of Ram, a Pentium processor and Windows 95, but it can be used - albeit rather anemically - by those whose computer equipment is less souped-up, according to its R&D director Sueli Tobin.

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BEERSHEBA AND SOUTH

ART - See T.A. (Eilat, Theater, Mon., 8:30)

OTHER LOCALES ART - See T.A. (Pardess Hanna, Wed. and Thurs., 8:30)

HAIFA

* ACCIDENTAL DEATH OF AN ANARCHIST - Arab Theater in Israel. Written by Dario Fo. A polished professional company responds to excellent direction with hilarious results. (Stage 2, Mon-Thurs., 8:30)

* AFFAIR WITH BRECHT - Performed by Noga Rapoport with Ari Weiss, pianist, actor. A monodrama presenting Brecht's songs from a different angle: the women in his life. (Theater, Mozdun, Sun-Thurs., 8:30)

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THEATER All shows are in Hebrew except those marked with a star. Times are p.m. unless otherwise stated.

JERUSALEM ABU NIMER STORIES - A collage of stories written by Dahn Ben-Amotz. (Khan Theater, Sat., 8:30; Sun., 4)

TEL AVIV AREA THE ABANDONED COUPLE - A satire on every subject (almost every) with Shirli Deshe and Dor Zwiengenberg. (Mekasin Auditorium, tonight, 9:30; Sat., 8:30)

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OTHER LOCALES ART - See T.A. (Pardess Hanna, Wed. and Thurs., 8:30)

THE VILLAGE - The story of the residents of an Israeli village in the 40s. Fine performances, original direction, and local nostalgia make up somewhat for the disjointed development of Sobol's latest play. (Nahariya, Heichal Hatarbut, Sun. and Mon., 9)

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For details of how to submit listings of art exhibits, please note the information at the end of the art section/page. Critic's appraisals by Naomi Doudai. Poster pages compiled by Judie Fattel.

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